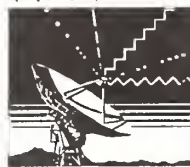


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Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

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Letter No. 2758

March 29, 1996

FARM BILL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ACTION -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman was pleased that the farm bill conference committee completed work on the 1995 Farm Bill (March 21). However, Secretary Glickman said, "I believe Congress' final farm bill has a lot of problems. I remain concerned about the dissolution of the safety net that protects farmers and rural America during lean times. I still have reservations about making large payments to producers regardless of market conditions." With reluctance, Glickman recommended to President Clinton that he sign this bill. Glickman commented that he was pleased to see strong research and trade titles, an extension of the nutrition safety net and the Fund for Rural America. **Contact: Jim Petterson (202) 720-4623.**

RUSSIAN POULTRY BAN LIFTED -- The United States and Russia have successfully concluded discussions on sanitary requirements that will permit the immediate resumption of exports of U.S. poultry to Russia. This result was achieved through a joint effort by the Government and private sector. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said, "The accord reached (March 26) establishes a framework for reviewing U.S. poultry processing plants and cold storage that export poultry to Russia and provides for development of mutually agreed criteria for review of U.S. facilities in the future." Initially, such reviews will be conducted jointly by U.S. and Russian veterinarians. Subsequent reviews will be carried out by the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. The additional problem of new Russian tariffs on poultry imports remains to be resolved. **Contact: Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623.**

"MAD COW" DISEASE -- The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service are currently working with their state and public health counterparts, the scientific community and industry representatives to review current policies and regulations concerning BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy). The United States has not imported processed beef or cattle from the United Kingdom since 1989 and enforces similar stringent restrictions on importations from other countries where BSE exists. USDA's BSE surveillance program has examined more than 2,660 specimens from 43 states, and no BSE has ever been detected in cattle in the United States. **Contact: Kendra Pratt (301) 734-6573.**

MEETING HELD ON BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service held a meeting (March 22) to review current U.S. policies and regulations dealing with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). The meeting was called in quick response to an announcement (March 20) in Great Britain of a newly identified variation of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a human neural disease, that may be linked to the BSE epidemic in British cattle. USDA's intent is to review current policies to ensure that the U.S. maintains a coordinated, science-based and effective approach that will keep the U.S. free of BSE. **Contact: Kendra Pratt (301) 734-6573.**

FUNDS AUTHORIZED TO COMBAT KARNAL BUNT -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced (March 27) that he has signed a "declaration of emergency" authorizing the transfer and use of funds to conduct a program to identify, control and eradicate Karnal bunt. This declaration was made in conjunction with the "extraordinary emergency" he announced (March 21) that gives USDA the ability to take a wide range of actions within states, including the use of quarantines, to control and eradicate the outbreak. Secretary Glickman said, "We are taking these steps to protect our producers, protect our export markets and to provide growers affected by Karnal bunt with the best possible options." The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, a part of USDA's marketing and regulatory programs mission area, in cooperation with Texas, Arizona and New Mexico, is conducting surveys and establishing regulatory controls necessary to protect wheat production areas of the United States. **Contact: Beth Hulse (301) 734-7280.**

KARNAL BUNT QUARANTINE ANNOUNCED -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced (March 26) a quarantine for the state of Arizona, four counties in the state of New Mexico and two counties in Texas because of Karnal bunt, a fungus that infects wheat. This quarantine restricts the interstate movement of regulated articles, such as wheat, conveyances used to move wheat, grain elevators or equipment used to store wheat and milling products or byproducts, from quarantined areas. Don Husnik, deputy administrator for USDA's Animal and Plant Inspection Service said, "This quarantine is necessary to prevent the spread of Karnal bunt into noninfected areas of the United States and to help protect our export markets." Dona Ana, Hidalgo, Luna and Sierra are the four quarantined counties in New Mexico. El Paso and Hudspeth are the two quarantined counties in Texas. **Contact: Beth Hulse (301) 734-7280.**

BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ECONOMICS -- Under Secretary of Agriculture Karl Stauber presented FY 1997 budget proposals (March 20) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's research, education and economics areas. In testimony before the House Committee on Appropriations, Stauber requested \$1.8 billion for 1997, about the same as the 1996 appropriation for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (CSREES), the Economic Research Service (ERS), and the National Agricultural and Statistics Service (NASS). Total funding requested for ARS is \$806 million--an increase of \$66 million. Budget request for CSREES is \$847 million, a reduction of \$65 million, and proposed funding for ERS is \$55 million. Proposed budget for NASS is \$103 million--an increase of \$22 million. **Contact: Stephen Teasley (202) 720-8329.**

VENTURE CAPITAL REPAYMENTS ACCEPTED -- As part of National Agriculture Day, (March 20) Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman recognized the work of two companies. These two companies are taking part in a U.S. Department of Agriculture venture capital program. The two companies -- BioPlus, Inc., of Ashburn, Georgia, and Aquinas Technologies of St. Louis, Missouri -- repaid part of the investments made in these firms by the Alternative Agricultural Research and Commercialization (AARC) Center. Aquinas repaid \$24,090.10 and BioPlus repaid \$22,746.53. **Contact: Ron Buckhalt (202) 690-2164.**

FAX AND INTERNET -- Radio and TV programming information and *Broadcasters Letter* can be obtained through USDA's AgNewsFax or from USDA's Home Page. **FAX:** Use fax phone to call (202) 690-3944. At voice prompts, press 1, press 4, then to receive **Broadcasters Letter**, press 9200; radio newslines information, press 9250; TV contents billboard, press 9260; TV scripts, press 9270. After all selections, then press #, press 3, and press the **start** button on fax machine. **INTERNET:** Address for this letter is <http://www.usda.gov/news/bdcaster/bdcaster.htm>.

EDITED BY LESLIE PARKER

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #2026 -- Gary Crawford takes an in-depth look at a different type of radio, "Farm Broadcasting -- From 1926 to the Present." Included are lots of interviews with farm broadcasters as well as sound recordings from decades ago. **(Weekly cassette -- five minute documentary).**

CONSUMER TIME #1504 -- No "mad cow" disease in this country. Farm Broadcasting: a different type of radio. Turning corporate landscapes into wetlands. National trails are getting more visitors than ever before. Turning munitions into fertilizers. **(Weekly cassette -- consumer features).**

AGRITAPE #2018 -- Russia lifts poultry ban. Beef production is up considerably. Slow start for new apples. U.S. scientists are working on ways to protect U.S. fruit growers. Turning weeds into cash crops. **(Weekly cassette -- news features).**

UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Wednesday, April 10, cotton/citrus production, world agricultural supply and demand (cotton). Thursday, April 11, world agricultural supply and demand, and cotton and wool outlook. **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newslines carry many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.

COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545

Material changed at 5:00 p.m., ET, each working day and 10:30 a.m. on crop report days.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

FEATURES -- Wind erosion and air quality are the focus of a research and education program in Washington state to control PM10 emissions. PM10 is particulate matter less than 10 microns in size. These very fine particles of dust are believed to cause health problems. In this three-part series, Lynn Wyvill reports on efforts by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the rest of the agricultural community to learn more about PM10 and ways to control it.

ACTUALITIES -- Includes highlights of Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman's testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture (March 21).

SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWSFEEDS: Thursdays from 3:45 to 4:00 p.m. ET, Telstar 402R (located at 89 degrees West), Transponder 13, Vertical Polarity, Downlink Frequency 3960 MHz.

****Note:** Effective May 2-September 26, the satellite newsfeed coordinates will change to: Telstar 401(97 degrees West), Transponder 7, Vertical Polarity, Downlink Frequency 3840 MHz.

Comments and suggestions are welcome regarding USDA broadcast services. Call Larry Quinn, (202)720-6072, or write to: Room 1618-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-1300. Internet E-mail: LQuinn@USDA.GOV.

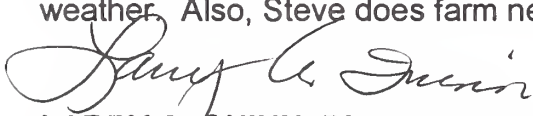
OFF MIKE

CORRECT ANSWERS...to agricultural trivia questions on Agriculture Day last week earned gift certificates for listeners who were tuned-in to **Rita Frazer** (WSMI-FM, Litchfield, IL). Rita says she gave away about \$500 worth of agricultural product prizes. Soil temperatures in her area are still cool with corn planting expected to begin around April 15. Rita was raised on a farm nearby and has handled farm broadcasting duties for six years with her station.

SNOW CONTINUES...this week in northern and midwestern locations. **Charlie Kampa** (KBRF-AM, Fergus Falls, MN) said an eight-inch snowfall pushed this winter's total in his area to near 75 inches. It's still cold, too. Charlie said temperatures dipped to - 11 degrees this week. Snow melting has been slow thus far, but a sudden warm up could cause some flooding concerns. He predicts there will be plenty of topsoil moisture for spring planting. A 16-year broadcasting veteran, Charlie has been a farm broadcaster with his station for the past six years.

RAIN FOR DRY TEXAS...brought some encouragement to farmers and ranchers there this week. **Curt Lancaster** (Voice of Southwest Agriculture Network, San Angelo, TX) said rainfall totals were less than a half-inch, but were widespread over the state. Fire danger is still high, but pastures are beginning to "green up." **Amy Bugg**, formerly with WSDR in Sterling, IL and a marketing firm in Peoria, IL, joined the VSA team this week. Curt says their network now serves nearly 70 Texas stations.

COUNTRY MUSIC... freelance reporting for ABC Radio is the new occupation for **Dan Gordon** (formerly with Tennessee Agrinet, Nashville, TN). **Steve Hayes**, who has been with Tennessee Agrinet for seven years, has assumed agricultural reporting duties. Formerly, Steve was a morning news anchor and a state capitol reporter. He now produces three 10-minute agricultural shows per day (5:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and noon), four 2-minutes features, market news and weather. Also, Steve does farm news for Alabama Agrinet.



LARRY A. QUINN, Director
Video, Teleconference and Radio Center

Broadcasters Letter

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